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DISCOURSE

OCCASIONED BY THE

DEATH

OF

COL: JAMES MORRISON,

DELIVERED IN THE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY,

MAY 19TH, 1823,

BY THE

REV. HORACE

of the B. D. and
of it for publication, and for A. M.
stitution; and that JAMES TROTT
GRATZ be a Committee to carry

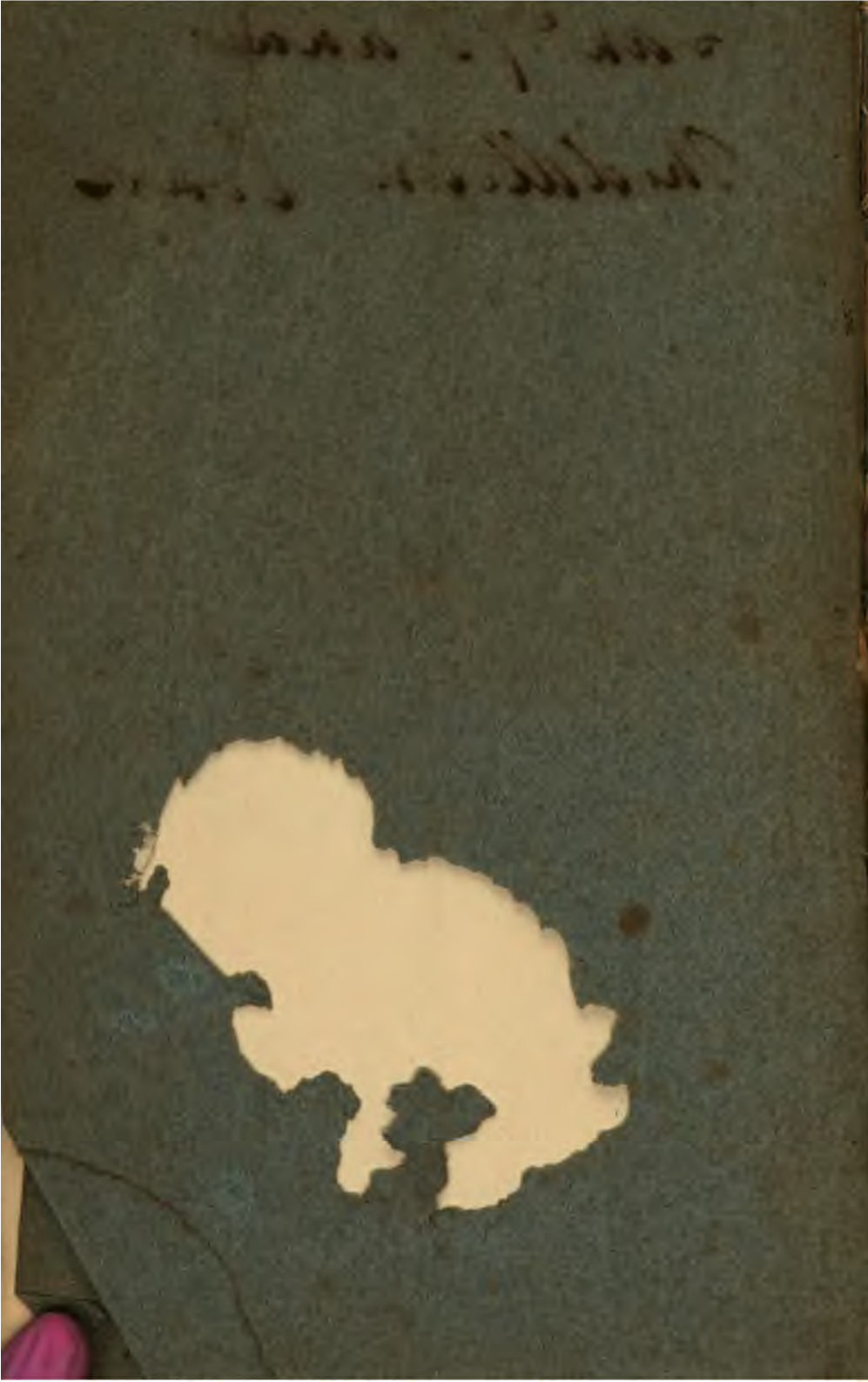
WILLIAM MACBEAN, Clerk

ANS

UNIVERSITY

LEXINGTON,

PRINTED BY J. M. GILFILLAN,
1823.



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AT a Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University, May 5th, 1823, Resolved, that the Trustees, as a testimony of their deep sense of the loss sustained by this Institution in the death of their late highly respected Chairman, Colonel James Morrison, who departed this life on the 23rd of April, 1823, at the City of Washington, will wear crape on the left arm for one month.

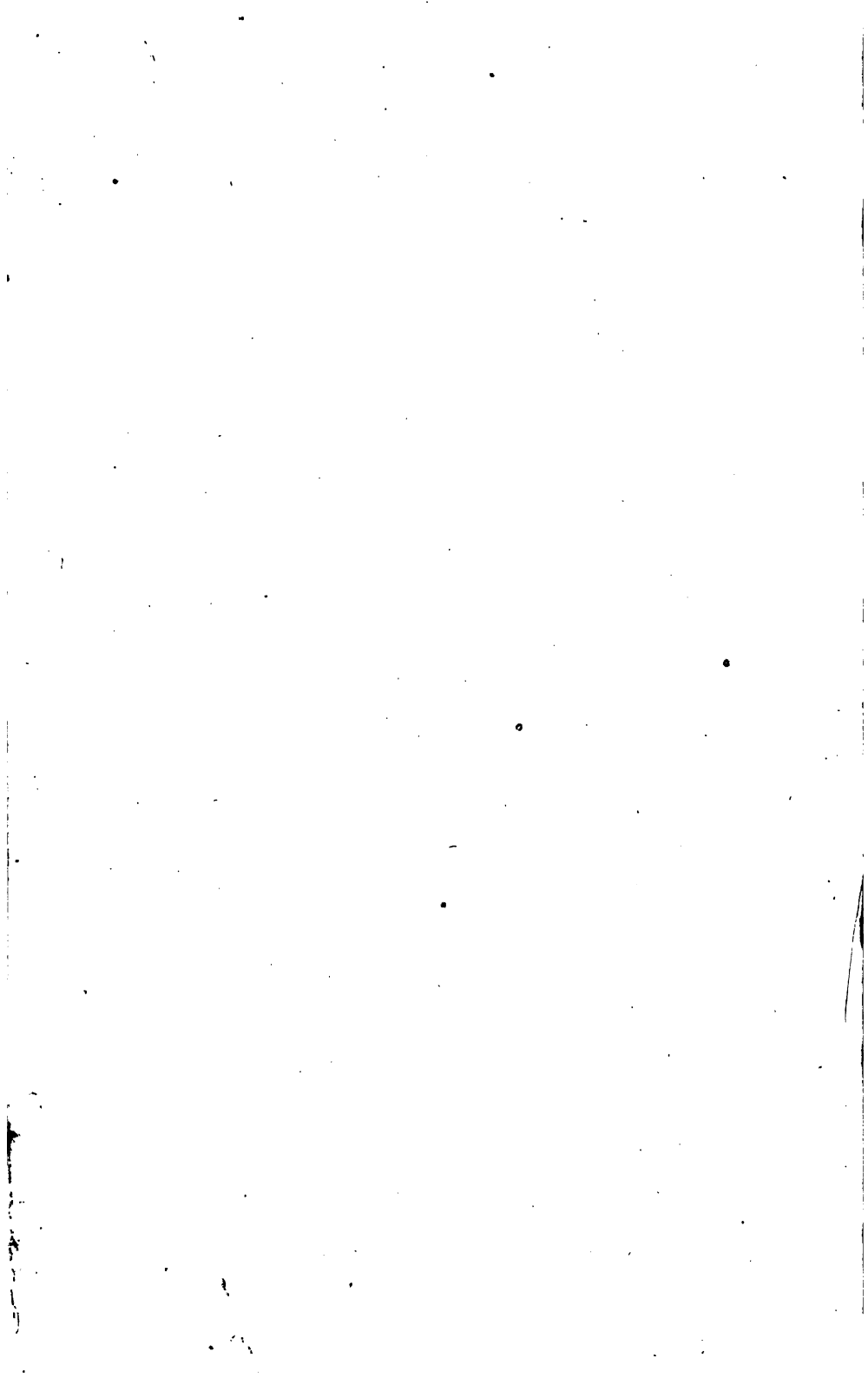
Resolved, that the Trustees, Faculties, and Students of the University will unite with the Citizens of Lexington, and such others as may choose to join, in a Funeral Procession, on Monday the 19th day of May, 1823, in honour of the Memory of Colonel Morrison, late Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Resolved, that the Rev: Mr Holley, President of this Institution, be requested to deliver a suitable Funeral Oration on the above occasion.

WILLIAM MACBEAN, Clerk of the Board.

AT a Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University, May 19th, 1823, Resolved, that the thanks of the Board be presented to Mr Holley for the Funeral Oration, which, at their request, he this day delivered on the occasion of the death of the late Colonel James Morrison, Chairman of the Board, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of it for publication, and for preservation in the archives of the Institution; and that JAMES TROTTER, JOHN TILFORD, and BENJAMIN GRATZ be a Committee to carry this resolution into effect.

WILLIAM MACBEAN, Clerk of the Board.



DISCOURSE.

A good man is dead, and we mourn. He lives in a more glorious state of being, and we rejoice. As he was virtuous, benevolent, and amiable, we loved him; as he was industrious, intelligent, useful, and successful, we respected him; as he was hospitable and generous, we applauded him; as he was patriotic, philanthropic, and munificent, we admired him; as he was honest, candid, faithful, and religious, we held communion with him; as he was our friend and benefactor, the patron of learning, the supporter of good morals, the defender of sound principles, and the advocate of every valuable measure, we will remember him with gratitude, and embalm his name in his virtues.

If we are asked why we meet each other thus, such is our reply. If we are interrogated about our motives, we point to the eloquent answer drawn out in the life and services of the man whose loss we deplore, and from whose kindness, hospitality, and wealth, we can hope to receive no advantages but those already secured. We know that we are exercising the noblest feelings of our nature, those which are most acceptable to

our Common Parent, our Universal Friend. Our hearts assure us that this is not an empty ceremony, but a spontaneous and united act of respect and attachment, in which every good citizen is sincerely and deeply engaged.

That there should be mistakes in some particulars about the real character of the deceased is inevitable from the laws which govern the human mind, and from the varying condition of individuals in society. He was brought into contact with too many persons and interests, had the control of too many means, moved in too large a sphere, was too inflexible, and achieved too many important purposes, to escape the usual misconstructions that attend active, persevering, and efficient men. But such mistakes are corrected by time and reflection. When competition has ceased, and jealousy is no longer excited, judgment, candour, and kindness resume their seat, and truth and justice are freely administered.

This discourse will be greatly misunderstood, if the audience should suppose that I think it requisite to appeal to the maxim, which forbids us to say any thing but good concerning the dead, or to exaggerate acknowledged excellencies, in order to make out a well proportioned and impressive eulogy. After a diligent inquiry among many of his contemporaries, such as knew him intimately for a series of years embracing youth, manhood, and age, in the vicissitudes of poverty and wealth, trial and success, I am fully supported in the declaration that his life, simply and honestly detailed, is a higher panegyric than any, which genius could invent, or

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rhetoric display; not indeed as brilliant, antithetical, and imposing, but more beautifully natural, more practically powerful, and more truly honourable.

There are unquestionably among us men of greater talents, of rarer endowments; men who fill a larger space in the public eye, and who take a deeper hold on national sympathy; men whose death would affect, not our own commonwealth alone, but the United States, and would be considered as a calamity to the Republic; but it may well be doubted, if we could select an individual, whose loss, in the usual relations and interests of society, would be more deeply felt, and more cordially lamented by the inhabitants of this vicinity. The propriety and value of this remark will be promptly estimated, not only by his family and relatives, but by his associates in business; by the number of active and useful persons who were reputably and profitably employed upon his capital for the maintenance and education of amiable families; by the civil, ecclesiastical, and social institutions of the town accustomed to receive his liberal and discriminating support; by the lovers of a ready and generous hospitality to strangers; and by the immediate governors, and more widely distributed pupils and friends of the University.

As an introduction to the brief sketch of his life and analysis of his character, which the occasion demands, and which I am required to attempt, I can select nothing more appropriate, nothing more indicative of the habitual influence that governed him, nothing more certain of your own approbation and sympathy, than the admirable motto, which, in the office of his daily busi-

ness and most important transactions, he placed conspicuously over his desk, and which his old and tried friend, the venerable Dr Ridgely, has preserved as a precious relic, a striking moral memento of an uninterrupted mutual attachment for nearly half a century. This truly philanthropic and pious sentiment is thus expressed:

“THE MOST EXALTED REPUTATION IS THAT, WHICH ARISES FROM THE DISPENSATION OF HAPPINESS TO OUR FELLOW CREATURES; AND THAT CONDUCT IS MOST ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS MOST BENEFICIAL TO MAN.”

This, we cannot fail to unite in declaring, is indeed a golden rule of life. We must recognise in it a synopsis of the best precepts, which the best moralists, philosophers, statesmen, and divines have taught. It is worthy of an entire page, and that the first and fairest, in our diaries, and of an everlasting engraving on our memories. It is now more particularly interesting to us, because it is at once both the index and the text of the life of him, whose departure we lament, and whose name we shall ever be proud to repeat, **JAMES MORRISON.**

Our friend, the son of a poor but worthy and respectable man from Ireland, was born in the year 1755, in the county of Cumberland in Pennsylvania. He continued with his father in the usual employments of agriculture till toward the close of his minority. He entered early into the service of his country, and was for

several years a soldier in the war that secured our National Independence. He was one of the Select Corps of Riflemen that made itself so dreadful to our enemies under the command of the celebrated Colonel Morgan, afterward the hero of the Cowpens. He was in those hard fought battles of 1777 about Saratoga, that ended in complete victory, in the capture of Burgoyne with his whole army; and he was distinguished for his personal bravery and skill by his countrymen who were gloriously contending at his side. On one occasion in the autumn of that memorable year, his corps fought nearly the whole day, and saw the field, such was the obstinacy of the contest, taken and retaken four times before sunset. The fact is worthy of being recorded in this place, that Colonel Morgan, writing about this victory to an intimate friend in Virginia, uses the familiar but emphatic language that such an intimacy justifies, "*My boy, if ever I deserved glory, it was on that day.*"

The true history, but its unwritten portion, that recounts the deeds of this distinguished corps of rangers, under whose fatal aim the accomplished FRAZER with many a British foeman fell, when the tide of battle was turned back upon the enemy, gives to Morrison an ample share in the dangers, hardships, merits, and triumphs of that immortal band of invincible patriots. Those are still living, and are among ourselves, who can bear testimony to the courage, discipline, and efficiency of our departed benefactor in the numerous enterprises of hazard, and in the employments of peculiar confidence and difficulty, in which he was engaged for the defence

of his country. I have been struck with the tone of animation, and with the countenance of light, even amid the wrinkles and sun-burnt hues of age, with which his surviving companions in the Revolutionary Struggle speak of his character, his personal appearance, his zeal and collectedness, and his general merits as a soldier.

With the fatigues and privations of a hunter's life he was long familiar, and was often called, as the numerous anecdotes among yourselves will show, to meet the stratagems and surprises of Indian warfare. A quick ear, a keen eye, habitual vigilance, a vigorous muscle, and an active limb, qualified him peculiarly for the unwelcome and dangerous but important office of a spy, in which, on great emergencies, he sometimes consented to be employed for the common good.

After peace was established, and the United States were admitted to their just rank among sovereign and independent nations, Morrison settled himself at Pittsburgh in his native state, and became the first sheriff of the county of Allegany, where he continued to reside for several years, and where his name is remembered and cherished by a large circle of distinguished friends. During this period, he was married at Carlisle in the county of his birth, and soon formed and executed the determination of removing to Kentucky. In the year 1774, he had, in company with Colonel William Thomson, visited, and surveyed with delight, the green fields and majestic rivers of this beautiful and fertile region, and had gained in that expedition such a degree of accurate local knowledge of the country as induced him to select one of its happiest portions for the theatre of

his future fortunes. He commenced business as a merchant in this town in 1792, and met with that success which crowned all the principal acts of his life. In 1795, he was appointed by Governor Shelby, in the exercise of that sound judgment and practical discrimination which have always characterised this patriotic and faithful servant of the public, Commissioner to assign lands to settlers south of the Green River. In 1797, he was elected a Representative of Fayette County in the Legislature of the State, and was soon afterward appointed by President Adams Supervisor of the revenue of the Union arising both from direct and indirect taxes in the District of Kentucky. It was in this office that he proved the power of good sense, a good character, and conciliatory manners, over the minds of the people, even in regard to unpopular measures, rendered still more odious, in this section of the United States, by the mismanagement, or at least the unfortunate course of their friends. Instead of losing, he gained credit and influence by his faithful discharge of duty.

Since that time, he has been successively engaged in extensive and highly responsible trusts under the Federal Government, as Navy Agent, and as Contractor for the supply of the North Western Army in our late war. I have been assured by the most respectable men, that the efforts, the difficulties, and the personal responsibilities, which he made, met, and assumed at that arduous period, were far greater than the community had the means of knowing, the leisure to estimate, or the security and ability to reward. His services in the department of the Quarter Master General, where he acquir-

ed the titular rank of Colonel, were never entirely remunerated, even so far as the refunding of the money expended from his private purse is concerned, till the last session of Congress, when his claim for many thousands was completely established and fully allowed, thus furnishing a new proof of the justice of our Republic, and of its attention to the rights of its deserving citizens.

The standing, integrity, and ability of Colonel Morrison pointed him out at once to the gentlemen, who directed the complicated concerns of the Bank of the United States in Philadelphia, as a suitable person first to fill the office of President of the Branch in this place. He held the chair with the entire approbation of the principals and the public, till he voluntarily resigned it into the hands of its other friends. The last office that he filled, to the duties of which he gave his whole soul, was that of Chairman of the Board of Trustees of our beloved and flourishing University. How zealously, patiently, and faithfully he attended to all the interests of the institution, during its trials from poverty and opposition, as well as after its generous relief by the munificence of the Legislature, I need not declare to those who have acted with him, and who have been so frequently assembled and stimulated by his unwearied assiduity. In the service of the University, he forgot age and sickness, and knew neither rest nor fatigue. It was his adopted and favourite child, and has been remembered and honoured as his most distinguished heir. He felt that the chief value of truth, liberty, humanity, religion, and immortality, depends on a well directed education,

on a rational and moral formation of character, on the illumination and improvement of the mind; and that without this, they would be unable to bestow that diversified and perfect happiness which is necessary to satisfy the inexhaustible and ever expanding faculties of the soul. Revered, and gratefully celebrated, as well as publicly acknowledged, be that Divine Providence, which always supplies the wants of man, especially those of the undying mind, and which always overrules abuses for their own correction, making light spring out of darkness, and forcing necessity itself to call forth the men and the means that are to convert it into the highest good!

We are indeed tempted to regret that Colonel Morrison died at a distance from home and from us; but we know that he was compelled by a regard to his character for integrity and accuracy as a man of business, as well as by the amount of his just claims upon the national treasury, to visit the seat of our General Government, where a lingering and painful disease found him at last a victim to its ravages. We can scarcely prevent our thoughts from dwelling on the numerous attentions and soothing offices, which we could have rendered to him at his own house, in the bosom of his family, and in the circle of his immediate relatives and townsmen. We are grieved too by the loss that we have sustained in being deprived of the opportunity to improve our own minds and hearts in witnessing his patience and fortitude under suffering, in studying the sources of his tranquility and triumphant philosophy, in examining the features of that rational and divine religion by which

his soul was elevated and harmonised, in learning from his conversation and example how far a sensible and inquiring man, without the advantages of an academical education, or of liberal instruction in the principles of a catholic theology as separated from the dogmas and additions of the schools, may carry his mind into the more exalted regions of religious truth and freedom, even amidst the cares and embarrassments of a varied life of activity and extensive business. But while we have a right to admit these affectionate and honourable regrets, we are consoled by the many considerations which the state of facts and of circumstances presses upon our minds. Though he was not with us, he was in the midst of friends, friends too who had known him well in other times and in other scenes. So few of our Revolutionary Worthies are now to be found in the walks of our busy and protected life of peace and trade, and so numerous and unquestioned are the fruits of the wisdom and labours of the generation which made us free and independent, that the halo around every man of that glorious day becomes peculiarly bright and "far-darting," and while it catches all eyes, assembles about the possessor respectful, admiring, and sympathetic friends of every age and of either sex. This charm surrounded Morrison in the Capital of a land of an open hearted people, and would alone have secured to him, had other reasons not been sufficient, the most prompt, effectual, and tender attentions. He was however personally known and sincerely respected by the highest officers of the government, was an old and intimate friend of our excellent Chief Magistrate, and could claim, as

he received, every courtesy and delicate as well as faithful service at their hands. Acquaintances in all the circles of his past life recognised him with promptitude and joy, and the scenes and sympathies of other places and other years were renewed for his entertainment and relief. In addition to this, he had the assiduous, well directed, cordial, and devoted attentions of that able man, that eminent counsellor, that distinguished statesman, who had long been his most intimate friend, his confidential and constant adviser, one who knew every thought and purpose of his mind, every wish and throb of his heart, and who could administer more varied and effectual consolation than any other individual.* To complete the alleviations attending this lamented death, we have to thank a good Providence, that his affectionate and faithful wife, after an anxious and protracted journey, arrived several days before the event, and had the opportunity to furnish those peculiar consolations, and to supply the wants that arise from those domestic and cherished feelings of the soul, which this most sacred of all connections can alone call forth, and alone reach with an irresistible influence.

As it was destined that he should die from his own town and home, he could not have chosen, had the privilege been allowed to him, a more appropriate place, one more gratifying to his patriotism, or to his laudable regard to his name and his character. His ashes sleep near to those of the Father of his Country, and on the very spot where Washington fixed the Seat of Empire.

A few remarks only are necessary to furnish you

* THE HON. HENRY CLAY.

with a correct general impression concerning the manner of this useful man's death. His complaint has not yet been professionally described, but is said to have been an abscess in his side,* which affected his whole system, and produced extreme emaciation. It is gratifying to us to know that he was uniformly firm, tranquil, patient, and resigned; that he retained the use of his mental powers to the last moment; that he continued to read and converse upon moral and religious subjects, and particularly the New Testament, in which he marked with his pen the most striking and useful passages, till a few days before his death, when he was obliged to lay aside the use of books; that he joined daily in the offices of devotion with the respectable, faithful, and attentive clergymen who visited him†; that he found his religious opinions as clear, as decided, and as effectual upon the state of his mind, in the close of life, as in the days of his best health and greatest strength; and that he died with equal honour as a philosopher and a christian.

Such is the outline of Colonel Morrison's life, which I have been able to collect, and which I hope will, in some humble measure, meet the claims of the present occasion. As in the case of every good man, so in this, by far the most interesting part is that which can never be detailed to the public, the daily acts of duty, benevolence, hospitality, and secret kindness, which filled up his long career of industry, integrity, and usefulness. Were this the place to give a minute biography, and to draw out the numerous anecdotes which I have collected, and which mark his various worth, I

* See the Letter of Dr Cutbush in the Appendix.

† The Rev: Messrs Laurie, Hawley, and McCormick.

could detain you, not for the short period of a popular discourse, but to hear me recite a volume. Although this is forbidden, a slight review of the characteristic features of his mind, and the general course of his opinions, may be allowed, and would probably be demanded.

It has already been suggested that Colonel Morrison had not the advantages of an academical education, but that he laboured under many privations in this respect. The poverty of his parents, the new state of the country where he resided, and the active life which he was obliged to lead, forbade an early attention to letters, and to the scientific discipline of his mind. He was however endowed by nature with a good understanding, a sound judgment, clear though not rapid perceptions, an ardent desire of knowledge, and unconquerable patience and perseverance in every pursuit upon which he had once entered. He accomplished himself as far as possible, by private and nightly study, in the usual branches of an English education, and advanced through an honourable distance in this course. His language was marked by general correctness, and even elegance, and he was able to express himself, both by the voice and the pen, with force and felicity. He had an unfeigned attachment to books, and those of the most valuable kind, such as give us just, practical, and philosophical views of our nature, relations, and duties; but he cared little for works of mere criticism, for technical defences of principles or dogmas, for authorities collected and arranged to support unnatural, uncomfortable, and injurious systems of belief, and for narrow and exclusive purposes. He studied men most in the ori-

ginal, but was always sincerely grateful for the aids which he derived from the writings of the enlightened and judicious. He was particularly fond of those books which combine, in a popular form, mental philosophy with ethics and divinity, and which show us how we may be most naturally wise and useful here, and most rationally and practically sure of an active, intelligent, happy, and progressive existence hereafter. It was his delight to search out the harmony, which he knew must prevail between all the modes of divine instruction, whether in a revelation by the works of creation, by laws and their administration, by the constitution of the powers and affections of the various orders of minds, by the nature and uses of matter, by the history of society and government, or by the pages of holy writ. Though habitually cautious and discreet, moderate and forbearing, he was bold and independent in his religious opinions, and he rejected, both as unnecessary and untrue, the artificial doctrines of scholastic theology. His conciliatory disposition and native courtesy appeared conspicuously in all his conversations upon these subjects. Firm and undeviating in the principles, which he believed to be at once correct and important, he was disposed to inquire rather than to argue with those who sought honestly and ingenuously for truth. But when he saw the bigoted and intolerant use unworthy means, appeal to base prejudices, and employ unrighteous denunciations against the upright advocate of free inquiry and religious liberty in opinions and worship, he was capable of being roused to a high degree of severity, and of pursuing a lofty tone of expostulation and

rebuke. Though he was a defender of liberality, and would secure to every man the full enjoyment of his opinions, and the fair expression of them with a correspondent course of action, yet he was not so fastidious or weak as to permit his rights to be assailed with impunity, and his privileges to be taken from him by the intolerant under the sophism that the freedom of thought and action, which he avowed, justified them in slandering his motives, misrepresenting his faith, calumniating his good name, diminishing his usefulness, or impeding his lawful progress in society. It is not difficult for a fair mind to understand the limitations of one's own rights by the rights of others. Whenever a conscience becomes so perverted as to make the possessor think it his duty to persecute, it is time to resist and punish him as a common nuisance, unless indeed in this free and happy country, the best and surest of all punishments is to let him alone, or leave him to the natural indignation of an offended people. We are bound to bear abuses for the sake of uses, but not for any other reason. It is not required of us that we consent, in regard to civil or ecclesiastical usurpation under the claims of legitimacy, to the right of the wolf to muddy the water in the stream above us, and then to charge the turbidness, raised by his own feet, upon ours, either for the purpose of devouring us, or of preventing his merited punishment, or of forbidding us to go and drink at the pure sources of the current.

Colonel Morrison was a christian in his sentiments and practice, but did not consider the peculiarities of any of the sectarian creeds in religion, whether papal

or protestant, ancient or modern, as necessary, or as useful, or as ornamental to this character. He had large views and philanthropic feelings, and recognised the wisdom, authority, goodness, and impartiality of the Deity in all the relations of life, in the wide variety of natural scenery before him, in the temple made without hands as well as in that erected by human art and consecrated to the immediate acts of formal worship, in the ages that are past as well as in those now present, in the foreign city and cottage of the distant gentile as well as in the metropolis of christendom and the village church of the pious followers of the heaven-directed teacher of Nazareth. With him, a life of virtue was the most acceptable homage to the Deity. He knew and felt that the end of all genuine religion is to make men good, useful, and happy. He ordinarily attended worship in the churches of the Presbyterians, a highly respectable and pious body of christians; but he was entirely eclectic in his principles, taking truth wherever he found it, and giving the hand of fellowship to all good men of every country and denomination. In this respect he invites our imitation, and furnishes us with a suitable occasion to thank our Heavenly Father for the happy formation of his character, for the judicious direction of his opinions, and for the catholic scope of his philanthropic communion.

The hospitality of Colonel Morrison was proverbial. The town is eminently indebted to him for its reputation in this enviable particular, and the strangers, who visit us, have lost an opulent, prompt, and generous host.

In his habits of business he was exact and punctual. The love of order was so strong in him that I have sometimes thought he paid more attention to the details of means and methods than the ends required. This however is an example so little likely to prove contagious in our community, that I would rather encourage its extension than dwell upon its particularity.

His manners were a very favourable specimen of the old school, which showed itself in his dress, in his whole personal appearance, and in all the forms of his intercourse, but blended and tempered with much of the feeling and ease attending our more careless, and perhaps slovenly modern exterior and demeanor.

When it is emphatically asserted that he was charitable and generous, although none may feel inclined to deny it, yet all may not have the means of knowing the extent in which the assertion is true. He was not indeed profuse, was not indiscriminate in his benevolence, was not ready to yield at once to every call that might be made upon his bounty. He retained, even in this part of his character, the habits of exactness and vigilance with which he conducted his common business, and was always anxious to connect his benefactions with the salutary feeling of responsibility in the beneficiary, with the continuance of his personal efforts for his own support, with a practical sense of the embarrassments that must always perplex an improvident life, and with the actual encouragement of economy, diligence, and self reliance. Hence, when he never expected the property to be returned, the money to be refunded, the rent to be paid, or the obligation to be en-

forced, he would take the signature of the assisted and the relieved, not for his own security or benefit, but for the security of *their* exertions, and the benefit of *their* frugality. It is to be remembered also that he arose from poverty and obscurity, that he made his own fortune, that he was the architect of his own empire and influence, and that he had been accustomed to regard even minute details as parts of a great and important whole which would have failed without them. The well known principles of association in mental philosophy, especially in reference to the manner in which the love of property is nursed by a succession of regrets arising from its expenditure, easily show that such a man, from the force of habit, after the necessity has ceased, may still be careful about small sums, while he parts with large ones with freedom and magnanimity. The influence of system may thus be mistaken by the unreflecting for parsimony, and those, who see but one side of the portrait, may easily be deceived with regard to the other. Did not propriety forbid, you might speedily be satisfied with the proof, which numerous facts afford, of the charitable and generous dispositions of Colonel Morrison.

Time will not allow me to dwell on several particulars of his character which yet remain, his ready perception and honest admiration of genius, his hearty attachment to the ingenuous and confiding, his fixed regard for the consistent and efficient, his native and enviable tact in selecting such persons for the objects of his confidence, his knowledge of distinguished men and his influence over them for all the purposes that came

within his proper sphere, his numerous and permanent intimacies with those whose names adorn the pages of American history without ever abating his self respect or independence, his judicious politics, and his excellent social habits.

I cannot entirely omit a reference to his good sense, independence, and impartiality, as displayed in the multiplied provisions of his will. He has remembered every individual that his diffusive benevolence could suggest, and has made a most judicious distribution of a princely estate. The arrangements for the prevention of trouble and embarrassment on the part of his executors are uncommon and admirable. They mark the union of clear and comprehensive views with that useful foreknowledge of particulars which gives to a man his executive power, and enables him to command the future.

In regard to the legacies, definite and contingent, for the University, I feel that I speak the sentiments of the impartial public, though I am doubtless liable to no small bias from self interest in this respect, when I say, that it is unquestionably one of the most useful and honourable acts of his highly useful and honourable life. It is now felt as well as known and acknowledged, that the interests of education are among the most important interests of man, and are indeed absolutely the most important, when education is taken in its extensive sense to include the whole training of the mind, the entire formation of the character. The mere study of books, it is confessed, does not constitute the chief, nor even the most valuable part of education; but a University, when

rightly directed, is far from limiting the attention of its youth to words, to definitions, to the shelves of its library, to the experiments of its laboratory, to the dissections of its anatomical chambers, to the polished surfaces of its glistening apparatus, or to its theories of brain and nerves. While it declares these objects to be valuable, it is designed to make them tributary to still higher ends, to call forth all the powers of its students intellectual and moral, to aid them in the development of every faculty of the immortal soul, to initiate them into a knowledge of themselves and others, and of the most valuable relations of society, to unfold to their minds the laws of the visible universe with the perfections and designs of its invisible and adorable Creator, and to teach them how to be useful, honourable, and happy for time and eternity.

By far the greater and more valuable part of education is unquestionably that which we get from personal observation and experience, from our intercourse with the beings and the things around us, and not from books. Yet these are of incalculable value in enabling us to understand and successfully conduct the other departments of our common instruction. In the technical view of the subject, an education is not indispensable to the efficiency and happiness of the mind, either here or hereafter, but in the sense, in which it is now used, it is necessary to the proper application of our powers, to the full enjoyment of our mental and sensitive nature, and to the requisite progress of the soul in dignity, worth, and felicity.

Such were the ultimate objects, which our deceased

benefactor proposed to himself in endowing Transylvania University. To perpetuate his name in connexion with such interests is indeed to secure immortality, not merely in the public orations that may hereafter be proud to celebrate his praises at our annual Commencements, but in the affections, the gratitude, and the plaudits of millions, who will be directly or indirectly benefitted in their minds, characters, estates, and hopes, by this benefaction. The professions, which are to be filled by those who shall go forth from our walls, the legislator, the statesman, the farmer, the mechanic, even the wife, the mother, the sister, and the daughter, all have a common interest in the spread of intellectual and moral light, in the progress of correct knowledge, of benevolent affections, and of virtuous manners.

When I look over the history of the public institutions of our country, especially of those devoted to the great cause of education, I find among their donors, their patrons, the founders of professorships, the names of those who have been most distinguished for their patriotism, their liberal opinions, their services to the state, and their effective philanthropy. Washington, Adams, Franklin, Rumford, and Dexter, among a host of others less distinguished, might be mentioned as a few of that glorious class of American benefactors and philanthropists; to which Morrison has so honourably added his name. Not many have surpassed him in the extent of their munificence, and most are left far behind.

It deserves to be noted that the venerable sage of Monticello, after having spent years as a diplomatist abroad, after having witnessed and enjoyed the diversi-

fied resources of a European life, after being raised to the highest honours of his country, and crowned with the wreath of imperishable glory, after having drank at the fountains of enjoyment in almost every mode of existence, has at last devoted himself, with the ardour of a young enthusiast, and with the perseverance of a veteran in philanthropy, to the most glorious of all the public enterprises of Virginia, the establishment, completion, and endowment of her State University. What an example is this to illustrate the usefulness of age, the dignity of retirement, the results of experience, the worth of human nature, the value of mind, and an effectual honourable preparation for eternity! The patriot, scholar, and philanthropist of Quincy too finds no appropriation of the gifts of fortune so dear to his heart in the frosts of age, and on the verge of the grave, as that which lays a foundation for the permanent union of literature, philosophy, and religion. What a spectacle for European potentates to behold is thus furnished by the plain but enlightened and truly noble servants of our Republic in private life! What a contrast do these benefactions for the best of all purposes exhibit to the blood stained career of mad ambition; to the selfish, haughty, and cruel doctrines of legitimacy; to the luxuries, debaucheries, effeminacy, and decapitations of too many of the crowned pageants that glitter through a short and oppressive reign, and are known afterward only for their want of capacity, usefulness, and virtue! O my Country, long mayest thou boast of thy free institutions, thy equal laws, thy simple manners, thy hardy and independent spirit, thy active patriots, and thy hon-

oured statesmen, not only in public but in private life.

One word more for our departed friend, and I have done. Morriſon, thy life has been laborious, useful, and honourable. Thou haſt been ſucceſſful for thyſelf, and for others. Thou art now ranked with the nobleſt of thy countrymen, with the beſt of thy ſpecies, for thou art a diſtinguiſhed patron of the deareſt human intereſts. Long will thy name be cheriſhed, thy memory revered, thy bounty acknowledged, and thy munificence rewarded. Heaven and earth unite in the praiſes of the generous and the good.

THE END.

APPENDIX.

I.

"He continued with his father in the usual employments of agriculture till toward the close of his minority." p 8.

The public is indebted to Colonel Benjamin Whaley for the following particulars, which are among others that were communicated by him to the author.

Daniel Morrison, the father of James, was remarkable for the clearness and power of his voice, and for his facility and success in recommending articles for sale at auctions, in which he was frequently employed. James, as it was familiarly expressed, was "mauling rails" at the time, when he was enlisted in the army by Captain Kilgour of the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment, in 1776. He was first under the command of Colonel McKay, and was afterward selected by Lieutenant Hardie for dangerous enterprises, in obedience to an order from Colonel Morgan. He was in the army six years.

II.

"The Select Corps of Riflemen, that made itself so dreadful to our enemies." p 9

"General Burgoyne gives it as his opinion, that as rangers, 'perhaps there are few better in the world than the Corps of Virginia Riflemen, which acted under Colonel Morgan.' He says, speaking of the battle of September 19th. that 'few actions have been characterised by more obstinacy in attack or defence. The British bayonet was repeatedly tried ineffectually.' Remarking on the battle of the 7th of October, he observes; 'if there be any persons who continue to doubt that the Americans possess the *quality* and *faculty* of fighting, call it by what term they please, they are of a prejudice that it would be very absurd longer to contend with.'

He says, that in this action, the British troops 'retreated hard pressed, but in good order,' and that 'the troops had scarcely entered the camp, when it was stormed with great fury, the enemy rushing to the lines under a severe fire of grape shot and small arms.' It is gratifying to every real American to find, that for so great a prize, his countrymen, their enemies themselves being judges, contended so nobly, and that their conduct for bravery, skill, and humanity, will stand the scrutiny of all future ages."

Silliman's Remarks on a Tour to Quebec, pp 125—127.

III.

"He was in those hard fought battles of 1777 about Saratoga, that ended in complete victory. &c. p 9.

"The two great battles, which decided the fate of Burgoyne's army, were fought, the first on the 19th of September, and the last, on the 7th of October, on Bemus's Heights, and very nearly on the same ground, which is about two miles west of the river." "The British picket here occupied a small house, when a part of Colonel Morgan's corps fell in with and immediately drove them from it, leaving the house almost encircled with dead." "General Burgoyne states, that there was scarcely even an interval of a minute in the smoke, when some British officer was not shot by the American Riflemen." "General Wilkinson states, that the wounded men among the Americans, after having their wounds dressed, in many instances returned again to battle." "The battle soon extended along the whole line. Colonel Morgan, at the same moment, attacked with his riflemen, on the right wing. Colonel Ackland, the commander of the grenadiers, fell wounded. The grenadiers were defeated, and most of the artillery taken, after great slaughter."

Silliman's Remarks, pp 103, 105, 107, 108, 109.

IV.

"Colonel Morgan, writing about this to an intimate friend in Virginia." p 9.

Dr Ridgely, to whom I owe this anecdote, informs me, that this friend is Mr Wayman, living near Winchester in that state.

V.

"Under whose fatal aim the accomplished Frazer fell." p 9.

"General Frazer was high in command in the British army, and was almost idolized by them. In the battle of October the 7th, the last pitched battle that was fought between the two armies, General Frazer, mounted on an iron grey horse, was very conspicuous. He was all activity, courage, and vigilance, riding from one part of his division to another, and animating the troops by his example. Wherever he was present, every thing prospered, and when confusion appeared in any

part of the line, order and energy were restored by his arrival. Colonel Morgan, with his Virginia Riflemen, was immediately opposed to Frazer's division of the army. It had been concerted before the commencement of the battle, that while the New Hampshire and the New York troops attacked the British left, Colonel Morgan, with his regiment of Virginia Riflemen, should make a circuit so as to come upon the British right, and attack them there. When the attack commenced on the British left, 'true to his purpose, Morgan, at this critical moment, poured down like a torrent from the hill, and attacked the right of the enemy in front and flank,' (Wilkinson.) The right wing soon made a movement to support the left, which was assailed with increased violence, and while executing this movement, General Frazer received his mortal wound. In the midst of this sanguinary battle, Colonel Morgan took a few of his best riflemen aside, men in whose fidelity, and *fatal precision of aim* he could repose the most perfect confidence, and said to them: 'that gallant officer is General Frazer: I admire and respect him, *but it is necessary that he should die.* Take your stations in that wood, and do your duty.' Sir Francis Clark, and many other British officers, were the victims of American marksmanship."

Silliman's Remarks, pp 89 90.

*This is strikingly characteristic of Morrison's skill in the use of arms. James Colman Esquire says, there is good evidence that he killed the celebrated "*big Indian*" among the Wyandots, who had committed so many depredations upon the early settlers of the West.

VI.

"Dangerous but important office of a Spy." p 10.

That magnanimity, disinterestedness, patriotism, courage, and other virtues of the highest order, may be found in this office, will not be doubted by those who have taken the pleasure, that every American ought, in reading a recent production of the great novelist of our own country.

VII.

"He was married at Carlisle." p 10.

To Miss Esther Montgomery, 1791, a lady still living to enjoy, as we trust, while she adorns by her virtues and her piety, the circle of her own friends, and those of her late husband.

VIII.

"Unpopular measures rendered still more odious by the unfortunate course of their friends." p 11.

From General Thomas Bodley we have received the particulars, which attended the commencement of Colonel Morrison's duties as Supervisor; but it is perhaps inexpedient to renew a detailed account of the acts of violence and hostility that are supposed to have been brought on by the

manner in which the revenue laws were executed. It is enough to know, that Colonel Morrison completely succeeded in rendering himself acceptable to the people, while he did his duty, and while the laws were odious.

IX.

"His claim for thousands was established." p 12.

The sum was \$23,000, a large part of which was money advanced from his own funds for the service of the nation.

X.

"It has been remembered and honoured as his most distinguished heir." p 12.

Colonel Morrison has left \$20,000 in money to the University, which sum, it is supposed, bears interest within a year from the decease of the testator. He has also made the University his residuary legatee, the product of which, it is believed by the best judges, will be \$40,000 or \$50,000. It may be useful to record here that part of the will, which relates to the University either to correct or to prevent erroneous impressions upon the subject.

Extract from the last will and testament of Colonel JAMES MORRISON, late of Lexington, Kentucky, deceased.

"I give to the Trustees of the Transylvania University and their successors the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS in trust, to vest the capital in some permanent productive fund, and out of the annual interest or dividends accruing thereon to pay the salary of a professorship to be instituted by them and to be denominated the "Morrison Professorship;" or to apply the said twenty thousand dollars to the purchase of a Library, to be denominated the "Morrison Library," as the said Trustees may think will best promote the interest of learning and science.

"And ALL MY RESIDUARY ESTATE beyond the sum of eleven thousand dollars, I give and devise to the Trustees of the Transylvania University for the benefit of that institution to be applied to the erection of another edifice for its purposes, to be denominated "Morrison College," in the town of Lexington."

XI.

"——— which always overrules abuses for their own correction, making light spring out of darkness, and forcing necessity itself to call forth the men and the means that are to convert it into the highest good." p 13.

I do not resist my inclination to quote a paragraph, in illustration of this idea, from the very philosophical, original, and excellent Message of Governor Wolcott to the Legislature of Connecticut in May of the present year.

"This afflicting survey of the degradations of savage, depraved and despotic governments, is however relieved by equally clear demonstra-

tions of the immortal energy of truth and reason. We know that some perception of the Divine will, has been coeval with the formation of man, and that God has constantly multiplied the testimonies of his revelations. *The most important truths have always been the most apparent. No Nation has denied the elementary principles upon which religion and social obligation depend.* At all times, there have existed a pure Church, and a just government. Though frequently obscured, these lights from Heaven have never been extinguished, but have always re-appeared, with renovated splendor, after every eclipse. When persecuted in one city, science, virtue and freedom have retired to another, leaving a remnant, to renew in some future period, a successful conflict with ignorance, barbarity and vice. It has been seen in modern times, that the most terrible instrument of divine discipline, even despotic rule, has accumulated power, which, on several occasions, has been exerted to destroy abuses, to nourish arts, and to diffuse such inestimable improvements as have evinced, that the achievements attributed to the Heroes of antiquity, were not entirely visions of the imagination."

XII.

"——— was an old and intimate friend of our excellent Chief Magistrate." p 14.

Mr Monroe visited Colonel Morrison almost daily, and manifested a deep interest in his situation. His last visit was peculiarly affecting to the family, and is remembered with a grateful and healing regard.

XIII.

"His complaint has not yet been professionally described, but is said to have been an abscess in his side, which affected his whole system, and produced extreme emaciation." p 16.

Since this discourse was delivered, I have received, at the hands of Mr Clay, the following letter, in which the professional account is given that we then wanted.

"On examining the body of the late Colonel Morrison of Kentucky, I found four of the lumbar vetebræ very much enlarged, and protruded into the abdominal cavity, over which the Iliacus Communis passed. This produced the *strong pulsating tumour*, which was so distinctly felt during the Colonel's life, and which was considered an aneurismal swelling, that which had been gradually increasing for a number of years. It is probable that the occasional vertigo, and pause in the motion of the heart, of which he complained, were owing to the different changes in the position of the body, producing more or less difficulty in the transmission of the blood through the Iliac, thereby exciting a laborious and irregular action in the heart. The vetebræ were enlarged to such an extent that the diameter of the brim of the Pelvis was diminished to half its natural size. No suppuration could be discovered in their vicinity, or under the Psoas Muscle. A few weeks before the Colonel's death, an abscess

formed in *Peritæo*, which was opened, but no connection with the diseased vertebræ could be traced by dissection. There were no symptoms which indicated any pressure on the spinal cord.

The liver was very much enlarged, and was, no doubt, the cause of the train of symptoms which the Colonel complained of. Its colour was of a grey cast, and presented a granitic appearance. This appearance was probably owing to a gradual interstitial deposit between the parenchymatous structure of this viscus, which rendered it so tender that the *slightest pressure* of the finger *destroyed its organisation*. No pus was discovered in it. His case terminated in *marasmus*, depending no doubt, on the functional disorder of the liver, and of the organs which are associated with it in the due formation of chyle. The cough, which was occasionally troublesome, was sympathetic, or produced by the enlarged gland pressing against the diaphragm.

The Colonel, no doubt, had been labouring under functional derangement of the liver long before he came to Washington, but probably the diseased action in this gland may have been increased by travelling during the winter season, and by exposure to the vicissitudes of the weather after his arrival here. I think it probable, that in the *forming state* of his disease, if the Colonel's mind had not been prejudiced against the use of mercury, the only remedy, on which a reliance could have been placed, its progress might have been arrested. His case clearly points out to me the impropriety of exciting prejudices against this or that medicine; for no one can be a competent judge of the necessary remedies, who has not an opportunity of witnessing the changes, which may take place in the diseased state of the system, requiring a difference of treatment corresponding to those changes."

Washington, April 27th, 1823.

E. CUTBUSH.

Washington City, May 3, 1823.

"Having been associated with Dr Cutbush in attendance upon the late Colonel Morrison during his last confinement, I fully concur with him in the above statement."

THOS. SIM.

XIV.

"—— he died with equal honour as a philosopher and a christian. p 16.

It will be highly gratifying to the friends of Colonel Morrison, and to the public generally, to read the following letter, which was written at my request, and which preserves some of the information that I had before received in conversation.

Ashland, June, 1823.

"SIR—Agreeably to the wish which you expressed to me, I proceed to state some circumstances attending the last illness of our late highly respected friend and townsman Colonel James Morrison.

Upon my reaching Washington, late in January last, I learnt that he

was sick and had been indisposed for some weeks. I immediately went to see him, and found him, though much reduced, still capable of transacting business, and occasionally going out. I saw him every day from that time until the day of his death, except about two weeks, during which I was absent from the City. His loss of strength and decline were gradual, but quite perceptible. Shortly after I first saw him, I formed the opinion that he never would leave the City. He entertained however hopes himself until within a few days of his death, and was very attentive, in the execution of the prescriptions of his physicians, and to every particular which he supposed might conduce to the restoration of his health. All the soothing attentions and acts of unaffected kindness, which occurred to any of his numerous friends and acquaintances, were promptly and sedulously performed. The President took the most lively concern in his recovery, daily sending to enquire about his condition, transmitting from his table choice articles of food, and frequently calling in person to see and cheer him.

Shortly after my arrival at the City, I communicated to him my apprehensions about him, and advised him to make all necessary preparations for the most awful event. He kept by him the New Testament, which he continued to read as long as his strength permitted him. He was often visited, towards the latter period of his illness daily, by one or the other of two highly respectable Clergymen (Messrs Hawley and McCormick) and joined them in religious exercises. On the occasion of one of those visits, I was present when the Clergyman asked him if he should read a chapter in the bible and continue their accustomed devotions. He answered yes, and I retired, supposing he would prefer to be alone. Upon his remarking, on my return, that I had not united with them in prayer, I took the opportunity of expressing to him my hope that he felt himself contented and at ease in his religious relations. He promptly replied that he had not now to form his opinions on that subject; that they had been long settled; that these gentlemen (alluding to the Clergymen) were pious good men, and had good intentions; and that he thought it right that they should perform the duties incident to their station. What was the precise nature of his opinions I did not enquire, nor do I certainly know. It was enough for me that he was satisfied with them.

No man ever bore, with more fortitude, protracted illness than he did. A groan, a complaint never escaped him. No man could contemplate, with more perfect calmness and composure, his dissolution than he did. He requested his kind and attentive friend George Graham Esquire and myself, a few days before his death, to have his body opened. The morning I left him, he stated to me that he could not survive, enquired when the ensuing County Court of Fayette would be, and observed, upon my informing him, that his executors might then qualify and "go to work." The pressure of duties at home, from which I had been detained much longer than I anticipated when I left it, obliged me most

reluctantly to separate myself from him on the 22d of April. It was then expected that he might linger some days, if not weeks. But he expired the next morning, about eighteen hours after my departure, and exhibited (to quote the language of Mr Graham) "one of the most remarkable instances of the sleep of death ever witnessed."

With great respect I am faithfully yours,

H CLAY.

The Rev: H HOLLEY.

Wednesday Morning, 6 o'clock.

"DEAR SIR—I hasten to advise you of the event anticipated when you left us yesterday morning, but which has taken place earlier than we then expected. Our friend expired this morning about one o'clock, without a struggle, retaining his senses to the last moment. and exhibiting one of the most remarkable instances that ever was witnessed of the sleep of death. You will readily conceive the effect, which this melancholy event has produced on Mrs Morrison, but I beg you to be assured that every service, which it is in my power to render her, will be offered as well while she remains here as in facilitating her return to Kentucky by whatever route she may designate."

Yours very respectfully,

GEO: GRAHAM.

H CLAY, Esq.

The Reverend Mr Laurie performed the official services at the funeral.

XV.

"——— pursuing a lofty tone of expostulation and rebuke." p 18.

This passage has reference especially to an account of a conversation between Colonel Morrison and a clergyman, which I had the pleasure to hear detailed with great interest by our truly catholic, amiable, and worthy citizen and christian, Mr Andrew McCalla.

XVI.

"——— when education is taken in its extensive sense to include the whole training of the mind, the entire formation of the character. p 23.

I am desirous of preventing erroneous impressions concerning my opinions about the importance of education. It has been supposed, or at least said, that I inculcate the sentiment, which requires an education for admission into heaven, and of course that scholars only are saved. I hardly think it necessary to say, in a formal manner, that this is a mistake, but it may be well to direct the attention of the reader to the distinction between an academical or book education and that natural education which is acquired by our progress in life and our intercourse with the world. Virtue is essential to eternal happiness. Other words may be adopted to express the same general truth; thus, a right formation of

character, a suitable development of the faculties of the soul, such a union of knowledge and of good dispositions as constitutes wisdom and benevolence, or the various and comprehensive state of mind included in the word education, may be declared to be necessary to our complete and everlasting happiness, that happiness which we mean when we speak of salvation. The want of literature is very different from the want of knowledge and of virtue. I have known some excellent and philosophical minds, which had little knowledge of books. There are also men, who have much literature, and no philosophy. The distinction is easily understood between a natural and on artificial education.

XVII.

"Washington, Adams, Franklin, Rumford, and Dexter." p 25.

Washington was a benefactor of the college in Lexington, Virginia. Adams has always been both a distinguished scholar, and a zealous patron of letters. He is mentioned again in a following note. Franklin is remembered annually in the distribution of prizes in the public schools of Boston, the proceeds of a fund left by him for the encouragement of learning. He is also remembered in numerous associations with this cause in Pennsylvania. Rumford left between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to Harvard University in a residuary legacy, the fruits of which are already realised in a most useful professorship ably filled. Dexter, the father of the late Samuel Dexter of Massachusetts, one of the first men in any age or country, left \$5,000 for a lectureship in Cambridge.

XVIII.

"Not many have surpassed him in the extent of their munificence." p 25.

William Bartlett of Newburyport in Massachusetts, and Mr Abbot of the same state, have given greater sums to the Theological College at Andover. Abiel Smith and Count Rumford have given each about \$40,000 to Harvard, but the list of benefactions to institutions of learning shows few sums greater than that of Colonel Morrison to Transylvania.

XIX.

"The patriot, scholar, and philanthropist of Quincy." p 26.

"We have seen a pamphlet containing the deeds of gift from the Honourable John Adams, of several pieces of land, and of his library, to the town of Quincy, with a catalogue of the library. The first deed begins in the following terms:—"Know all men by these presents, that I, John Adams, of Quincy, in the county of Norfolk, Esquire, in consideration of the veneration which I feel for the residence of my ancestors, and the place of my nativity; and of the habitual affection I bear to the inhabitants, with whom I have so happily lived for more than eighty-six years—and of my sincere desire to promote their happiness, and the instruction of their posterity in religion, morality, and all useful arts and sciences, by contributing all in my power for these purposes, do hereby give, grant,